

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 657**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Hernandez**

February 25, 2009

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An act to add Section 127162 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 657, as amended, Hernandez. Health professions workforce: master plan.

Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to take various actions related to statewide health planning and the development of policies to address health care issues in California.

This bill would require the office, in collaboration with the California Workforce Investment Board, to establish the Health Professions Workforce Task Force composed of specified members, to assist in the development of a health professions workforce master plan for the state, and would prescribe the functions and duties of the task force in that regard. The bill would require the task force to submit a complete statewide health professions workforce master plan to the office and the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:~~

2     ~~(a) In order for California to remain healthy, prosperous, and~~  
3 ~~globally competitive, the state needs to have a skilled health~~  
4 ~~professions workforce.~~

5     ~~(b) Demographic trends and health care reimbursement~~  
6 ~~structures are increasing gaps between health professions workforce~~  
7 ~~supply and demand, as seen in the shortages of primary care~~  
8 ~~providers.~~

9     ~~(c) California's population is aging, growing, and becoming~~  
10 ~~increasingly diverse. California's workforce of health professionals~~  
11 ~~has not reflected these changes and is ill-equipped to reduce new~~  
12 ~~pressures on the health care system.~~

13     ~~(d) Developing California's workforce so that it better represents~~  
14 ~~and serves its consumer population will help to mitigate increasing~~  
15 ~~health care costs.~~

16     ~~(e) California faces a dramatic and pressing challenge related~~  
17 ~~to the supply and distribution of health care professionals. In~~  
18 ~~addition to urban areas, rural areas face ongoing challenges to~~  
19 ~~recruitment and retention.~~

20     ~~(f) There are existing statewide efforts to address these problems,~~  
21 ~~which include, but are not limited to, the California Institute for~~  
22 ~~Nursing and Health Care's Master Plan for the California Nursing~~  
23 ~~Workforce, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Five-Year~~  
24 ~~Workforce Education and Training Development Plan, the creation~~  
25 ~~of a health care workforce and educational clearinghouse within~~  
26 ~~the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development,~~  
27 ~~publication of the report entitled "Connecting the Dots: California~~  
28 ~~Initiative to Increase Health Workforce Diversity" by the California~~  
29 ~~Health Professional Consortium, and others. However, there is no~~  
30 ~~coordinated plan of action effort to develop the state's health~~  
31 ~~professions workforce.~~

32     ~~(g) A comprehensive approach to health professions workforce~~  
33 ~~development is needed to ensure that the state has the optimal mix~~  
34 ~~of culturally competent health professions workers to address~~  
35 ~~health needs in a cost-effective manner.~~

36     ~~(h) To prepare the highly skilled workforce necessary, to keep~~  
37 ~~California's economy competitive, to maintain the income and~~

1 quality of life for California residents, and to increase tax revenues,  
2 the following issues must be addressed:

3 (1) ~~A comprehensive public and private collaboration to develop~~  
4 ~~California's health professions workforce.~~

5 (2) ~~A state-level effort involving multiple health professions,~~  
6 ~~business and labor, educational institutions including primary,~~  
7 ~~secondary, and postsecondary institutions, state government~~  
8 ~~workforce boards, regional leadership, consumers, and other~~  
9 ~~stakeholders. These groups should work together to forecast health~~  
10 ~~professions workforce demand and plan comprehensive pathways~~  
11 ~~to support targeted health professions.~~

12 (3) ~~Health data collection and reporting on a continuous basis.~~

13 ~~SEC. 2.~~

14 *SECTION 1.* Section 127162 is added to the Health and Safety  
15 Code, to read:

16 127162. (a) The office shall, in collaboration with the  
17 California Workforce Investment Board and based on information  
18 provided by the health care workforce clearinghouse created by  
19 Section 128050, establish the Health Professions Workforce Task  
20 Force to assist in the development of a health professions workforce  
21 master plan for the state. The task force shall be composed of the  
22 following members from both rural and urban areas:

23 (1) Two members representing the Legislature, with one member  
24 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and one member  
25 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

26 (2) At the discretion of the Regents of the University of  
27 California, a member representing, and appointed by, the Regents  
28 of the University of California.

29 (3) A member representing the California State University, as  
30 appointed by the Governor.

31 (4) A member representing the California Community Colleges,  
32 as appointed by the Governor.

33 (5) A member representing the State Department of Education,  
34 as appointed by the Governor.

35 (6) A member responsible for leading a health sciences program  
36 in a school district, drawn from a pool of candidates selected by  
37 the Superintendent, as appointed by the Governor.

38 (7) Three members representing key stakeholders from labor,  
39 health insurers, and medical groups, as appointed by the Speaker  
40 of the Assembly.

1 (8) Three members representing the community clinics and  
2 hospitals in the state, as appointed by the Senate Committee on  
3 Rules.

4 (9) Three members representing community-based organizations  
5 in the state, as appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

6 (10) Three members representing multiple health professions,  
7 including nursing and allied health, as appointed by the Speaker  
8 of the Assembly.

9 (11) A member of the California Workforce Investment Board  
10 and a member of a regional workforce investment board, as  
11 appointed by the Governor.

12 (b) Total membership of the task force shall be not more than  
13 21 people.

14 (c) Membership on the task force shall be voluntary and without  
15 compensation.

16 (d) The task force shall assist the office in the development of  
17 a health professions workforce master plan, and shall hold its first  
18 meeting no later than October 31, 2010, to do all of the following:

19 (1) Report, assess impact, and review capacity and effectiveness  
20 of existing state and private workforce training programs to  
21 leverage funding resources and form new partnerships, foster  
22 shared learning, identify best practices, and minimize duplication  
23 of efforts.

24 (2) Review local workforce investment plans and assess progress  
25 toward meeting current health professions workforce needs.

26 (3) Identify education and employment trends in the health  
27 professions.

28 (4) Identify the 10 health professions with the highest demand  
29 and develop a plan to meet that demand.

30 (5) Recommend state policies needed to address the issues of  
31 health professions workforce shortage and distribution.

32 (6) Compile, assess, and align with other strategic plans for  
33 developing California's health workforce.

34 (e) The task force shall meet no less than three times per year.

35 (f) Not later than October 31, 2013, the task force shall submit  
36 a complete statewide health professions workforce master plan to  
37 the office and the Legislature.

38 (g) The office shall act as the lead in coordinating the task force.

- 1     (h) ~~The office shall seek and accept~~ *task force shall seek, and*
- 2     *the office shall accept,* funds from the federal government and
- 3     private entities to support the activities of the task force.

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